



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

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“REPEAT OFFENDER SENT TO PRISON FOR 15 YEARS”

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that Christopher Albert Kleckner, age 61, of Spokane, Washington, was sentenced to 180 months in prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Christopher Kleckner will be under court supervision for 60 months after he is released from prison.

Kleckner was arrested on October 6, 2008, on outstanding warrants. When he was taken into custody, the Spokane police removed a chrome colored, AMT, Back Up model, .380-caliber pistol from Kleckner’s pants pocket. The gun had one round in the chamber and five rounds in the magazine. Kleckner was pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of firearm in September 2009.

Kleckner was sentenced under the Armed Career Criminal Act which requires a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years in prison and up to life in prison for defendant’s who possess firearms or ammunition after having been convicted of three or more felony crimes of violence or serious drug offenses. Kleckner has a previous burglary conviction, two robbery convictions and a second degree murder conviction.

This investigation is part of the Department of Justice’s Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America by networking existing local programs which target gun crime. PSN provides these networked programs with additional funding, training and the tools necessary for success. PSN targets the worst of the worst for investigation and prosecution.

This investigation was conducted by the Spokane Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Matthew F. Duggan, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.

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